MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether an estimate was prepared for the construction of the bridge at the time when the work of the road was begun ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : The road was constructed under a separate estimate Sanction has been given for the construction of the bridge and we are awaiting allotment of funds.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the reasonfor not getting sanction for the bridge also when the sanction for the road was obtained ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*) : It was considered that the road should be improved first and the bridge built afterwards.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the temporary bridge exists there at present ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigaton*) : No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Government are aware that due to the absence of at least a temporary bridge there, the passengers are put to serious difficulties ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It is quite possible.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether there is any proposal at present for the construction of the bridge ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : As I have said Government have sanctioned an estimate or the construction of the bridge. It is awaiting allotment of funds.

Fragmentation of agricultural holdings.

85. ✻**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*) : Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) whether they are aware that minute sub-division of agricultural holdings since the passing of the Nair and Ezhava Regulations have adversely affected paddy cultivation in the State ; and

(*b*) if so, whether they considered the desirability of taking action to prevent this sort of fragmentation of holdings ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) :

(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) this does not arise.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : May I know whether the Government are aware that minute sub-division of agricultural holdings of Nayar and Ezhava communities has led to fragmentation of agricultural holdings ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : May I know whether the fragmentation of holdings will affect the agricultural industry in the State ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : There is no information that any paddy land has been left without cultivation.

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MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the quantity of rice imported into the State has been steadily mounting up from 1110 onwards?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the figures with me now to give a specific answer to it.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from Government whether they are aware that as a result of the fragmentation of holdings people have begun to convert paddy lands into garden lands?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That process has been going on for a very long time, even before the enactment of the Nayar and Ezhava Regulations.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know what steps Government have taken to prevent the conversion of paddy lands into garden lands?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is a matter which involves an important question of policy whether an uneconomical holding should not be converted into an economical holding.

Change of kist month.

86. ✻**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the question of changing the date for payment of tax for Medappu Punja lands from 15th Edavam to 15th Mithunam has been considered by the Government after the last Budget Session of the Assembly; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, whether any action has been taken after the last Budget Session at which the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner promised to consider the question?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): (*a*) and (*b*). The matter is under consideration.

Appointment of District and Second Judges.

87. ✻**MR. K. M. KRISHNAN** (*Ambalapuzha II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there are any applicants at present (Mithunam 1111) from Ezhavas for appointment as District Judge and Second Judge; and

(*b*) if so, how many?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Four.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): With reference to part (*b*) may I know the names of the four persons?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not usual to give names.

PRESIDENT: It is not in the interest of the applicants that their names should be canvassed in this House.

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